**Writing News Articles**

**BE CONCISE**

Print costs money, so news articles are as concise as possible. The first few sentences of a news article sum up what occurred, to whom, when and where. You can skim news articles reading only the first paragraphs to get a good overview of the news.

**BE PRECISE**

News articles are meant to be authoritative and trustworthy and factual. Give precise dates and names.

**BE OBJECTIVE**

News articles are not opinion pieces. The facts should be presented objectively. Opinions and emotions are present in statements taken from witnesses, experts etc. Where necessary opinions from a range of different people are quoted to give a fair overview of the story.

**NEWS STORIES ARE NOT SHORT STORIES**

News stories are read to gain information and not for entertainment. Long descriptive sections are not required and the sub-editor will delete them as the aim is to be concise.

Three stories have been changed. How have they been changed and why?

1 Fear had spread throughout the quiet suburban streets of Ferntree Gully as a sudden fire broke out in the Ferntree Gully Seven Eleven store. Seven children were there, purchasing refreshments after a hot day. They didn’t expect for the day to get even hotter. “I don’t know what happened,” said 14 year old Jake Franklin, who was in the store at the time. “My mates and I were just getting a Slurpee after school and the fire alarm went off.”

Yesterday a fire broke out in the Ferntree Gully Seven Eleven store on Major Road. “I don’t know what happened,” said fourteen year old Jake Franklin. “My mates and I were just getting a Slurpee after school and the fire alarm went off.”

2 A little girl and her sister were left alone in their car, while mum goes to buy groceries. These girls got lost in Boronia and it’s still a mystery how they got lost. Some say she must have been sad and went to find her mum with her sister but others say they were taken away. Her name is Chelsea and her sister’s name is Susie smith, they have brown hair and brown eyes and Chelsea was wearing a pink dress and Susie was wearing a purple dress.

Police are searching for the whereabouts of Chelsea Smith 5 and her sister Susie Smith 4. The sisters were last seen yesterday , by their mother Emily Smith 35 ,in the car park of Woolworths in Boronia in Melbourne’s outer east. Both sisters have brown hair and brown eyes; Chelsea is believed to be wearing a pink dress and her sister a purple dress. Police are asking for anyone who was in the vicinity at approximately 4pm to report to Boronia police station.

3 Oodles of animal loving protestors gathered with their pets on the steps of State Parliament house demanding an end to puppy farming the other day.

Yesterday on the 14th February